
LIFE AND ADVENTURES
OF
LAZARILLO DE TORMES.

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LAZARILLO DE CRIMES
OF
THE ADVENTURES

T H E
LIFE AND ADVENTURES
O F
LAZARILLO DE TORMES.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

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THE AND ADVENTURE

THE HISTORY OF THE



IN THE HISTORY

VOL. III

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THE LIFE
OF
LAZARILLO DE TORMES.

CHAPTER I.

*Lazarillo a bad Manager; the Death of the Cor-
regidor; Lazarillo's Misery in consequence.*

I PROMISED my readers, if any thing worth relating recurred to me, I would again employ my pen; I now perform that promise, convinced they will find the latter part of my adventures even more surprising than the former.

VOL. II.

B

The

The life I had led with my German companions was so pleasant, that I was ever regretting it; and at length as a consolation, resorted to the houses where we had passed so many agreeable hours; there I found some new associates, to whom I taught the German fashion; and we did so much honor to our instructors, that we no longer quitted the alehouse, either night or day. But the misfortune was, that I was now under the necessity of paying my own expences, and generally those of my companions; so that in a few months I had spent all my former savings.

I attended so little during this period to my employment of cryer, that what I earned, would not have provided salt for my porridge; and when

when I wanted money, my wife was obliged to give it me, or I made the house too hot to hold her. But she did not very quietly submit to this; we had very great quarrels, and the corregidor was always against me; sometimes he would expostulate with me in gentle terms, and at others make use of his authority; by one or other of these means, he usually patched up a peace between us. When I was in a condition to reason, I perceived that he was in the right; I then constrained myself for a few days, wherein I stayed at home, and attended to my affairs; but this resolution was of short duration; I was become so habituated to the alehouse, that I would rather have suffered any misfortune than stay away.

The corregidor, however, continued

nued his lectures, and my wife her remonstrances, in which they were abetted by my conscience; which told me they were certainly right, and I wrong. All at once therefore, I resolved seriously on a reform. I continued at home three or four weeks, but so sorely against the grain, that my dissatisfaction was I believe pretty evident. My poor wife who was undoubtedly very fond of me, could not bare to see me suffer so much from constraining myself. I don't how, but it seemed as if we were both in each others way. One day that we were sitting by the fire side, she told me that she plainly perceived the kind of life I led was very irksome to me; and therefore advised me to follow my inclinations, and leave the rest to providence. I thought her advice excellent, and her confidence was so well founded,

founded, that I never was without money in my pocket; the corregidor changed his note too, for so far from remonstrating with me on the occasion, he was the first to advise me to yield the management of affairs to my wife, and not to trouble myself about my family; I did not give myself the trouble to enquire into their reasons, and without knowing whence the money came, led the pleasantest life in the world.

About this time my wife lay in of a daughter, which the corregidor honoured by giving his name to; and indeed was as fond of as if it had been his own. He told me continually that if she lived to grow up, he would educate her, and leave her all her fortune. I could not but admire the goodness of this man towards an

B 3,

infant,

infant, in whom he had no interest; satisfied with these assurances I continued to live, according to my former plan; I was the happiest fellow in the world; having no thought for the present or future; I depended on the corregidor for all.

My life continued to pass away in this pleasant manner for some time, when it was all at once interrupted by the illness of our good friend; he was seized with such a violent fever, that in three days he was reduced to the last extremities.

The corregidor's relations, who had claims to his inheritance, were soon informed of his situation; they all flocked to him; and though it was natural to suppose their interests would have caused divisions among them,

them, they agreed but too well respecting me.

Their first care was to forbid my wife or me from entering the house; and though the good man enquired very frequently for us, they persuaded him so fully that he ought to give up all thoughts of this world, that he took himself quietly into the other, without our having even the consolation to take leave of him, or his leaving us any little token of his regard.

Misfortunes never come alone. The corregidor being a man of authority, people did not dare to importune him about trifles; for this reason the rent of our house had not been paid for two years. The landlord would not understand that it was the corregidor who hired the house, because his heirs

would by no means acknowledge it, so that we were turned into the street, our goods being seized for the debt.

Of so many friends that I could have boasted, in a week I had not one; and had it not been for a charitable lady who took my wife to suckle her child, and also supported my poor girl, I should have been reduced to play the part of the *gentleman ruined by the wars*. In fact, the death of the corregidor was more fatal to me, than fire, sword, famine, or any other visitation.

I thought to have found a resource still in my office of cryer; but alas! I was disappointed; deprived of the means of entertaining my customers at the alehouse, they deserted me, and I did not gain sufficient to pay the
hire

hire of my trumpet. It was then that I began to dislike my German friends, as much as I had liked them before ; and I found but too late, that having fared too well in their company, would be the occasion of my faring very ill the rest of my life.

CHAPTER II.

Lazarillo determines on making a Voyage to the Indies. He meets his old Master, the Squire, who relates his Adventures.

WHAT was to be done in this extremity? I found I could form no plan more favourable than going to seek my fortune in the new world, since there was no resource for me in the old, This was become a beaten road; it having long been the fashion for the gentlemen of Spain, when they were a little out at the elbows, to re-establish their fortunes, by a voyage to the Indies, it was no disparagement to me, therefore, to follow the example of so many honourable gentlemen.

In

In consequence of this resolution I sold my office of cryer, to equip myself, and pay the expence of the voyage. I then took leave of my poor family, kissing a thousand times my little Teresa; and one fine morning set out from Toledo; a stick in my hand, and a bag containing my slender wardrobe at my back.

I could not bear fatigue so well as formerly, therefore made short journeys, and was as frugal in my expences as possible. One morning that I had set out rather earlier than usual, I saw a man before me on the road, who walked very leisurely; he was wrapped up in a large cloak, and had on a long sword, the end of which appeared through a hole that had been made for that purpose in the cloak. As it was not an hour

B 6

that

that people walked merely for amusement, I was surprised to see a person thus equipped on the high road, and I did not know what to think of him. Having some apprehensions that he might be one of those kind gentlemen who relieve passengers from their baggage, and wishing to preserve mine, I addressed him, in approaching with a "God preserve you, sir." I pardon you, replied he, (without taking the cloak from his face) because according to my present appearance, you are excusable in not knowing what is due to me. "I was surprised at this answer, which I conceived at first to be the foundation of a German quarrel, and willing to preclude all pretence for it, assured him I had no intention to offend him, on the contrary—he interrupted me by saying very sharply, that may be; but how

how came it into your head, then, to salute people in such a strange manner. The devil take me if I don't think that *God preserve you* was introduced into the world, to drive me out of it.

At these words I began to examine him more attentively; and as he had lowered his cloak, I perceived I was speaking to my old master, the squire. I was greatly rejoiced from various considerations, and approaching him, said, "is it possible, my noble master, a few years should have made such a change, that you no longer remember Lazarillo de Tormes? He looked earnestly at me, then held out his hand, and said, why really, Lazarillo, you are so much grown, and so much improved since we parted, that it would have been a difficult matter to recognize you.

After

After several congratulations, and expressions of mutual regard, he began to question me where I was going. I told him. He then said, I am going to the same place; we will travel together; and I beg of you to relate to me by the way, all that has happened to you since the evening I was obliged to quit Toledo for reasons you may guess."

I gave him an exact account of all that had befallen me; which took up such a length of time, we arrived at the place of destination, as I concluded. I went into an inn and requested him to follow me. I then enquired for refreshment, which was soon brought; and as we were such old acquaintance, *the squire* made no ceremony with me, or even pretended to put his hand into his purse.

After

After our repast my quondam master communicated to me, what had happened to him during our separation ; he told me that when he had quitted the house, under pretence of changing the double pistole, not doubting that when money was the question, people would keep their appointment, and considering also the little means of subsisting he had found at Toledo, he resolved to return to his own country, to sell his property, and endeavour by some means to improve it.

“ I was surprized, added he, when I arrived, to find my dove house rebuilt, and several pair of oxen ploughing the fields, which I had left untilled when I quitted the place. I went up to a labourer who was following the plough, and enquired to whom

whom he belonged; I learnt from him, that soon after I left the village, for the reasons I gave you, the very person who was the occasion of my departure, took possession of my land without any opposition, and had managed it in the manner I was witness of.

“ Having received this information I went to one of my old neighbours, and caused my return to be published. My officious representative was very much surpris'd; but he could not deny; my identity too short a time having pass'd since my going, to admit of it. He therefore made a proposal to me, to board me so long as I should find it agreeable, and when it ceased to be so, to make me a considerable present, if, on my, part I consented

consented to relinquish all claim to the property."

"Before I agreed to this proposal, I made the following conditions: That I was to have at least the second place at his table; that when we met he should address me with, "*your servant,*" and no more of his, *God preserve you;*" I would sooner have relinquished all my property, than have yielded this point. This being agreed to, all was settled amicably, and I continued two years in my native place, bearing a sword, and receiving the homage of the peasants.

But at length I grew tired of this idle life, and I perceived too, that the people of the house began to grow more familiar with me; I therefore informed my host, that I should like to go
to

to the army, and requested he would, according to our agreement, pay me a sum of money. He was very well pleased with the proposal, and to assist me, gave me a horse, and sufficient money to equip me for the expedition; in consideration whereof I made a renunciation in form of all my property to him, and took a final leave of my native place.

CHAPTER III.

The Squire continues the Recital of his Adventures.

He agrees to take a Voyage to the Indies with Lazarillo.

“**B**UT I had no intention, (continued the squire) of joining the army; therefore, at a quarter of a league’s distance from the village, I quitted the road to Catalonia, and took that of Madrid, where I hoped to make a fortune by less hazardous means. For, to own the truth, though I have worn a sword all my life, I never was fond of the profession of arms. And as I had always a great deal of ambition, and an elevated turn of mind, I willingly adopted the sentiments of the great men of our nation,

tion, who think every employment that bears a relation to war, beneath them; and that they are degraded by it."

"When I arrived at Madrid, I sold my horse, and hired a handsome apartment. This done, I set about reconnoitering the town. One evening that it was dark, I was returning home through a narrow street, when I saw a coach stop. I perceived a lady in it, who was very well dressed, and whom I therefore saluted as I passed. I had not gone a hundred yards before a lacquey overtook me, and told me his lady, who was in that carriage just by, wished to speak to me. I returned with him; and when I arrived, she addressed me thus: "You will undoubtedly be surpris'd, sir, at my taking this liberty; but I perceived

ceived you was a stranger; and I thought too that I could read in your countenance you were not a man to refuse a genteel employment, if it were offered to you."

"I thanked her for her kindness, and acknowledged it was the very thing I was come to Madrid in search of. I was a cadet, not very rich, and" — here she interrupted me, "Enough, signior, I have long been in search of a well-bred genteel man like yourself. Donna las Garfios, in whose service I have the honor to be, has been a long time soliciting me to look out for a gentleman-usher for her. She is a woman of the highest rank, therefore it will be a very advantageous establishment for you; a considerable salary; a coach and lacquey for yourself; and your fortune made for life."

"I would

“ I would have reiterated my acknowledgements, but she would not listen to me.” “ Hold, hold, said she; stay ’till you see what I do for you. Get into the carriage, and we will converse further on this subject. “ Where do you lodge ?” I told her; and she said, “ how lucky ! tis, the very part of the town I was going to; I will take you there.”

“ I blessed my stars a thousand times in my own mind for the good fortune that had befallen me, when I so little expected it. As we went along, she asked me an hundred questions, and you will judge, I could not conceal any thing from my generous benefactress. I related all my adventures to her, without any reserve.

“ When we arrived at my lodgings,
she

she said she should like to see what sort of apartments I had. We went up stairs, and I wished to get some light, but she would not permit me, saying, that it might be prejudicial to her to be seen; and it was still light enough for her to distinguish what she wanted. From the anti-chamber she went to the bed-chamber, desiring her footman might stay at the door, to prevent any body from coming in. She set herself on my bed, and desired me to sit by her. She then entered into a long detail of my future employment; described Donna las Garfios, and all her household; then proceeded to give me instructions respecting my future conduct, giving the characters of each domestic separately. After which, she promised to send the carriage to fetch me next day, to present me to my future mistress;

mistress; and after a thousand protestations of mutual friendship, we parted."

When I had handed her to her coach, with a satisfaction you will easily conceive, I returned to my apartment with a light. But what was my astonishment on entering it, to find, that while this generous friend had been amusing me with such fair speeches and fine promises, her lacquey had contrived to convey away my clothes, portmanteau, and almost all my money. I ran down into the street like a madman, and followed the coach without being able to come up with it; unfortunately, at the meeting of several streets, it intermingled with four or five others, so that I could no longer distinguish it from the others. I was therefore obliged
to

to return home, cursing my destiny, Donna las Garfios, and above all, my own folly."

" You must allow, my dear Lazarillo, this was a sad presage of my future fortune. I had only ten pistoles left, half of which at least it would take to repair the depredations committed on my wardrobe, and the rest would not serve to subsist me long without some employment. In short, I was soon reduced to the utmost misery ; and finding Madrid no more favourable to me than Toledo, I resolved to seek my fortune elsewhere."

Here the squire ended his narrative, and proved, by opening his cloak, that his situation was what he represented it ; for his clothes were all rags ; his hat and stockings so much worn, that

altogether were not worth half a real. I felt so much compassion for my old master, that I offered to share my supper and bed with him, which he readily accepted, and I made use of every effort in my power to console him; telling him, that since we were both reduced to seek our fortune, he had better go to the Indies with me; and that it was fortunate, as we had so far to go, we had the comfort of a friend's society. We then went to supper, and drank to our success in the new world, swearing eternal friendship. After this we retired to bed, continuing still to converse on our future plans. We agreed that he should retain his name of Don Alonzo Fane-gado, and that I should take that of my father, Lazaro Gonzales, adding a Don to it; for I resolved to be a gentleman as well as my companion,

since

since nothing is so easy and convenient, as to ennoble ourselves in a foreign country. In fine, after a long conversation on this subject, we went to rest.

Next morning, when I awoke, I found the squire had arisen before me; and going to put on my clothes, I was very much surprised to find they had disappeared. This discovery was soon followed by another, no less than that the squire had taken himself off at break of day; and having heard, I suppose, that *exchange is no robbery*, had taken away my clothes, and every thing, leaving me his old rags in their place.

I was so grieved at this discovery, that I thought I should have died on the spot; and I have often regretted

since, I did not, as I should then have escaped the miseries I have suffered subsequently. The regret, however, at this moment, is no more. When I recovered my first surprise, I began to cry out, and made such a noise, that I drew all the people of the house to my room. They found me like a man who is swimming; naked, with my arms extended, seeking something to put on. They laughed till their sides shook to see me in this situation, while I swore like a trooper at the braggard and thief, for entertaining me with his rhodomontade stuff about his birth and grandeur.

The only remedy left me, was to try if the villainous squire's clothes would do for me, till it should please providence to send me some others. But I found them quite a labyrinth, without

without beginning or end. There was no difference between the breeches and the doublet. I put my legs into the sleeves, and the breeches on my shoulders; and for the hose, they resembled the sleeves of a jacobine, or an archbishop: the shoes would have served for sandals, only that they had soles to them. I put the hat on wrong side before, because the back was not so greasy. I shall say nothing of the *gentry who accompanied me*.

C H A P. IV.

Lazarillo embarks for Carthagena. Is shipwrecked in his Return from India. Hears the Confession of a Corporal; and enjoins him various Penances. Is saved by a Plank.

FINDING myself thus deserted by all the world, and equipped in such a grotesque manner, I betook myself towards Carthagena to embark for the Indies. As I went along, the people were all up in arms to see such a ridiculous figure, and each made some observation in derision of me. One said, look at that hat, the feather, methinks, becomes him as *a sow becomes a side-saddle*. Another observed, that my doublet was somewhat short; aye, replied another, but *it will*
be

be long enough before he gets another.

A mule driver told me my cloak was like a pigstye, and might be truly called so when I was in it. A basket woman desired me to kill some of the fat animals that ran about me, and sell them for my family, whom, she feared, wanted food mightily. A rascally valet told me, my sandals were truly apostolic. "Yes, interrupted an officer, they are adapted to his profession; he is going to convert the Moors, and recommend poverty and abstinence by his example." In short, they ridiculed me so unmercifully, I was obliged to take to my heels, and by this means escaped. I soon arrived at Carthagená, where I took my passage; the vessel set sail shortly after; and being favoured by a fair wind, we soon got into port.

I shall not relate what happened to me in India, because nothing material or entertaining occurred ; but proceed to what befel me on my return. One day that we were on the point of discovering the Spanish coast, I went on deck, eager to be among the first who were blessed with a view of their native land, which was, in spite of its ill treatment, very dear to me. While I watched for this precious sight, I gave myself up to the pleasing idea of seeing my wife and child, after three years fatigue and danger ; and making them partakers of my good fortune. I had brought merchandize with me to the amount of five hundred crowns, with which I intended to set up a little shop at Cadiz, as that was the place where the greatest commerce was carried on ; and I hoped to provide honestly and comfort-

comfortably for my family; but *I reckoned without my host*; fortune was not yet tired of persecuting me.

All at once a violent tempest arose, which increased every minute to such a horrible degree, that the pilot and sailors were no longer masters of their vessel. The fleet separated, and for two days and nights we were between life and death. The waves mounted up so high, they met the clouds. The pilot lost all hopes, and the crew therefore gave themselves up to despair; nothing was to be heard but sighs, groans, and lamentations.

Never was there a scene of greater confusion; amidst the universal noise, the commands of the officers were not heard; one ran one way and one ano-

ther ; all were desirous of confessing their sins to each other ; and some addressed for absolution even greater scoundrels than themselves.

The proverb says, *it is good fishing in troubled waters*. Seeing therefore that all were employed, I said to myself, let those die that will, provided I live, its no matter of mine. I therefore went down into the hold, where I found a great quantity of provisions, nice pyes, and other delicacies with some delicious wines. I began then to eat, resolving to lay in a stock to last me till the day of judgment. While I was thus engaged, a soldier came to me, to desire I would receive his confession ; he was astonished to see me eat so heartily ; and asked me how I could have

have so good an appetite, when death was before my eyes. I told him I took care to lay in a good foundation, for fear the great quantity of sea-water I drank in drowning, should give me the stomach-ach. Though on the point of death himself, he could not help laughing at my simplicity.

There were several others who wanted to confess themselves to me, but I was too well engaged to hear them. The captain and people of rank on board, took refuge with two confessors in the boat. I was not of the party, for as I did not make any great figure, I was not thought of consequence enough to be saved. When I was tired of eating, I went to a cask of wine, and drank as much as my stomach would hold. Having

then nothing else to do, I attended to the request of my companions, and received their confessions. Among the rest, I remember a corporal, who earnestly desired I would hear him acknowledge a heinous sin he had been guilty of; as I consented, he proceeded to inform me, that he had neglected to accomplish a penitence which had been enjoined him, of going a pilgrimage to our lady of Loretto, when he could very easily have performed it. And afterwards, when he would have done it, it was not in his power. I told him that by virtue of the authority I possessed, I changed his penitence; instead of going to our lady of Loretto, he should go to St. James. Alas! said he, how happy should I be to have it in my power to perform that; but you see the situation we are in; the water is almost up to our mouths.

mouths. Then, returned I, I command you to drink up the sea; but this was equally impossible, because there were others who drank as much as himself.

Observing now that we were at the last gasp, for the water came in at every part of the vessel, I ran up on deck as quick as possible, and half undressing myself, I seized hold of a plank just as the ship was going to split against a rock. Though I knew nothing of swimming, I was borne along to the shore by this means, where I was found by some fishermen, without motion, and covered over with sea weed and shells.

CHAPTER V.

Some Fishermen find Lazarillo in their Nets. They take him for a Sea Monster, and oblige him to be one in spite of himself. They dress him as a Triton; and exhibit him in Public.

THE shore on which the waves had thrown me, was very far from the rock on which our vessel split; and I was the only one of the crew who was saved.

The fishermen, who, as I said, took me in their nets, imagined at first they had made prize of a sea monster, my skin was so shriveled, my face disfigured, and I was besides covered all over with weeds, amongst which several shells had entangled. They
got

got me out of the water by hooks, being afraid to break their nets with my weight. It was not till they had considered me very attentively, that they found their mistake. But the figure I made, gave them the hint of a scheme which they afterwards put into execution.

They made me bring up the water I had swallowed; and when I began to breathe, stript off the rest of my garments, and took me into their hut. Some hours after I recovered my senses, and hardly could be persuaded it was me. I found myself naked, and on a wretched mattrafs. During this time the fishermen had held a council, and agreed upon the plan they meant to pursue. As I recovered and found my speech, I began to thank providence for my escape. I then, in
bitter

bitter terms, lamented the misfortune, which had made me lose in one moment, what I had gained by three years fatigue. While I was thus uttering my complaints, one of the fishermen, the wickedest among them, came to me. "Well, said he, Mr. Triton, how do you find yourself? you are welcome to earth. Can you give us any news from the nereids and sea gods?" Me a Triton! replied I, you joke; dont you perceive that I am a man like yourself? "A man, indeed (returned he) very likely; I tell you, you are a Triton, or a sea monster, which ever you chuse." As he said this, several others approached, who agreed in the same story; they all swore I was an inhabitant of the sea. It was in vain I told them my name, whence I came, and that I had a wife and child; they would not listen to me. "None of
your

your arguments, if you please, said the wretch who had first spoken to me ; I tell you, you are a Triton, and a very hideous one too ; so hold your tongue, if you would not be sliced and salted like one of our fish." I was going to reply, when he took out his knife as if to execute his threats. I was so frightened at this, that I resolved to be whatever they said ; Triton, sea monster, or even herring, if they pleased.

I could not conceive, however, to what all this tended ; but I was not long in the dark. I saw the fishermen bring in a large tub, three parts filled with water ; they then obliged me to put on a covering they had made, composed of sea weeds, moss, and shells. I was then swaddled up by cords, so that only my head was
left

left at liberty. They next put me on a long beard of sword grass, and a cap of moss. Thus equipped, I was put into the tub, which was shallow and oval. At one end, my head and shoulders appeared just above the water; at the other, the tail of a fish was placed, so as to look like a part of me.

They had fastened a cord to my false beard, which passed through a hole made at the bottom of the tub, so that by pulling the end of it, they made me duck my head under water whenever they thought proper.

CHAP.

CHAPTER VI.

Lazarillo's Adventures in the Character of a Triton.

WHEN the fishermen thought they were prepared for the exhibition, they gave notice by the cryer, that they had caught a Triton. In consequence, so many people crowded to see me, that though the price of admittance was only the quarter of a real, they made a very considerable sum of money before night. When the people came in, I would fain have made my case known to them; but one of the fishermen, to whom the part was given of relating the history of the Triton, was placed for that purpose by the tub, and held the cord that was fastened to my beard; whenever

ever he perceived me going to open my mouth, he drew the string, and forced me to duck my head under water like a frog, so that I was obliged to hold my tongue, for fear of being stifled.

My persecutors charmed with their success, and tempted by the profit they had already acquired, resolved to carry me through all the towns and villages of Spain. For this end, they sent to ask permission of the superiors of the inquisition to exhibit a fish which had an human countenance; and accompanied their request with a present of some remarkable fine fish;—it was therefore readily granted.

They conveyed me in a cart; one of the fishermen was the driver; another

another recited the history of the Triton to the auditors ; and a third was seated in the cart to pull the string in case I should be disposed to talk when we met any body. I was allowed to open my mouth only when we were alone. One day I profited of this permission, to ask them what demon put it into their heads that I was a sea monster, as they must be convinced in their own minds that I was a man ; for they perceived that I eat, drank, and spoke as a human being? and further, that it was a cruel and wicked thing to place me in a situation that sooner or later would be my death. “ If you have nothing to say more to the purpose than that, replied my guard, I would advise you to hold your tongue ; we are better judges of what you are, than yourself. We are convinced you could not
live

live an hour out of the water; and you ought to thank providence for throwing you into the hands of those who know how to manage a sea monster." Saying this, he began to pull the cord, to convince me he was in the right. This was an unanswerable argument; therefore I was obliged again to adopt my former resolution of consenting to be fish, or any thing that pleased these diabolical wretches. Sometimes to increase my misery, they would sing over their cups, "long live the charming fish, who fills our purses without our being obliged to work!"

At length they grew so bold from their success, that they took me to Madrid, where they hoped their gain would be very considerable, on account of the number of courtiers who resided there; for as those people
lead

lead an idle life, they are fond of shows and amusements, and therefore are always in search of some novelty of the kind. My masters were, however, mistaken in their calculations, they did not receive much encouragement there, and met with a rebuff they little expected.

Among the spectators one day, there were some young scholars, a set not very easily tricked; one of these said pretty loud to the rest, "that a Triton! by my soul, just as much as I am; these are pretty rascals; if I was an officer of justice, I would send both fish and fishermen to the galleys, after having sent them round the town in the manner they deserve."

Alas! thought I, I would willingly compound for an hundred stripes and
ten

ten years slavery in exchange of my present situation. I prayed heartily that they might complete the discovery, and was going to tell them they were in the right, when my centinel observing my mouth open, plunged my head under water. They gave a great shout when I plunged, to drown the voices of the scholars, which had the desired effect. But they were much alarmed by this discovery ; for they judged, and rightly too, that the same idea might occur to others ; they took French leave therefore of Madrid that same day, and directed their route towards the country, where people are easier imposed upon.

One day that we went to a village between Madrid and Toledo, a great concourse having assembled, my
masters

masters were tired with the fatigue; therefore towards night they all fell fast asleep. Observing this, I tried to unloose the cord which fastened me; but it was so wet I could not succeed. I would have cried out, but I considered, that the first who heard me would soon close my lips with a seal of water. I began then to roll about in this puddle so violently, that at length I overturned the tub completely. The water ran about the room, and I found myself in some measure at liberty; I began therefore to cry out for help.

The fishermen seeing the trick I had played them, ran in great confusion and hurry to remedy the evil; their first step was to fill my mouth with herbs; and to confound my cries, cried themselves still louder, justice!

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justice!

justice! They then proceeded to fill the tub, which was done without observation, during the general hurry.

The host came in, attended by his whole house, armed; some with sticks, others with brushes and tongs. The neighbours flocked in also with a commissary and six serjeants. They enquired of the fishermen what was the cause of the outcry, who replied, that it was occasioned by some thieves who wanted to steal their sea monster. The host went to look if they escaped through any of the doors, others if they had got away on the ridges of the house top; mean time, I was replaced without any discovery.

It happened that the water which flowed out of the tub when it was overturned, had run through a hole
in

in the floor to a room beneath, exactly where a bed stood, in which bed the girl of the house slept, and at this time had charitably given one of her gallants a share of it. They were so alarmed by the deluge which came pouring down on them, and the cries they heard, that not knowing what they were about, they both jumped out at the window. It was a moonlight night, therefore they were easily descried by those who went out of the house, who immediately began to cry out, "thieves! thieves! there's the thieves!"

The commissary and serjeant ran after, and soon overtook them; because, as they were without shoes or stockings, the stones pierced their feet, and prevented their making any speed. They were put into pri-

son immediately, without being heard; and the fishermen set out next morning for Toledo, without enquiring what would be the fate of the poor girl and her gallant.

CHAPTER VII.

*Lazarillo is taken to Toledo, where he sees his Wife
with a Lover.*

EVERY effort of man is vain ; his knowledge ignorance, his power weakness, without the assistance, and support of his creator. My endeavours to escape from my guards, only made them more vigilant to secure me, and they were so incensed at my attempt, and the fright I had put them into, that they beat me till I was almost dead, saying at the same time, so you want to get away, cursed fish ; not sensible to the favour we shew, in permitting you to live ; you are like an oak, which will not yield its fruit till it is well beat.

Thus abused, beaten, and almost famished, they brought me at length to Toledo ; and as fate would have it, they hired a lower apartment in the very house where I formerly lived. I was astonished one day with the sight of my wife, and little daughter Teresa, who was grown as handsome as an angel. I was so affected, that two streams involuntarily flowed from my eyes. Though I could not suppress my sighs and tears, I endeavoured to conceal them, for fear of being deprived of the pleasure of seeing a child so dear to me. I wished to have had an hundred eyes to contemplate her ; but alas ! had I known my own happiness, I should have thought those who deprived me of speech, would have been kind in depriving me of sight also ; for looking very attentively at my wife, I perceived ;

ceived ; how shall I bear to repeat it ; I perceived by her shape that she had played me false. I leave to my readers to judge of the agony I suffered on this discovery ; I cannot describe it.

A hope still presented itself to cheer me. I flattered myself my wife might be dropfical ; but even this hope was soon wrested from me ; and I was unhappily convinced that all which had been told me of the corregidor, was true. Two old women who were near me, began to converse on this subject ; says one, ironically to the other, pointing to my wife, look at the chaste Penelope, how she mourns her absent lord ! the other laughing, said, pray who is her present gallant ? Who, returned the first, why Signior Lorenzo, who is so good, that to avoid the scandal of her becoming a mother

ther, without a husband in his house, is going to marry her on Sunday next to Peter de Gabach. He will doubtless be as condescending as our old friend Lazarillo. At hearing this, I was struck as if by death; a sickness came over me, and my body, though immersed in cold water, burst into a violent perspiration; at length quite over-powered by my sensations, I fainted away and sunk to the bottom of the tub.

The fishermen seeing this, sent all the people out of the room, and proceeded to take me out of the water immediately; they found me without breath, and my pulse quite lost. Frightened at the idea of losing such a prize as I was now become, they employed every effort to bring me to my senses, but all in vain; and they lamented

lamented in the bitterest terms the loss they had sustained; but in the midst of their lamentations, recollecting the risk they ran of having their tricks discovered by my death, these horrid wretches resolved to throw me that very night into the river, and fly the country next morning. Providence however took pity on me and disappointed my enemies, as will be seen in the next chapter.

CHAPTER VIII.

Lazarillo taken towards the River to be thrown in by the Fishermen, is saved by the Patrole; and his Conductors punished.

THESE villains agreeing that death was not to be joked with, as he feldom jokes himself, put me into a sack, which they placed across one of the mules belonging to their cart. Fortunately they placed me with my stomach on the saddle, by which means my mouth being downwards, the motion of the mule occasioned me to bring up the water I had swallowed, and I soon came to myself.

I immediately perceived that I was out of the water, but could not imagine

gine where I was; or what they were going to do with me. I soon learnt however that they meant to throw me into the river; for I heard one of them say, "it behoves us for our own sakes to take care that the place be deep enough, that he may not be discovered soon." Another said, he would fasten a large stone to my neck, that I might sink to the bottom. From this discourse I found their intention, and proved that "*the raven is never blacker than its wings.*" While I was considering my danger, I heard a noise of people who were passing very near, I therefore began to cry out, as loud as I could, help! help! murder! Happily for me, it was the patrol who were going their rounds; they heard my cries, and surrounded us in a moment. Perceiving the sack, they opened it, and
D 6 found

found poor Lazarrillo like a stock fish that had been soaked in fresh water. We were all conveyed directly to a place of safety; the fishermen, their mule, and myself. My enemies were greatly enraged at being taken, and I was equally rejoiced on my side to see myself free. The fishermen were put into a dungeon, and I was put into a bed.

The next morning we were examined. The fishermen confessed that they had carried me about as a show, but that they really believed me to be a fish, and had obtained the permission of the superiors of the inquisition. When it came to my turn, I told the whole truth; how the fishermen had found me; their binding me with cords; and finally, stopping my mouth that I might not complain. The court caused my wife then to be called

led to identify my person. On her entering, they asked her if I was Lazarillo de Tormes? She looked at me earnestly, and then said, it was true, I bore some resemblance to her late husband, but she thought it could not be him, because, though he certainly was a great beast, he was more likely to take the form of a fly than a fish, for he hated the sight of water as much as a mad dog; saying this, she dropt a low curtsy and retired.

My enemies' lawyer desired that I might be burnt, since it was evident that I was a monster. Well, thinks I, to be sure the devil has been at work here, and changes my form in the eyes of these people. The judges, however, desired him to hold his tongue, and at my request sent for my wife's new gallant, Don Lorenzo, who

who had been one of my friends during the life of the corregidor; and who, as I heard from the gossips, the day before, had extended his kindness to my wife. When he arrived, seeing me so pale and shrivelled, he said he had no knowledge of me; but I reminded him of some circumstances which were only known to ourselves, particularly one that he must remember, my finding him one night in my wife's chamber. Fearing that I should go further, and mention other things he did not chuse to have known, he acknowledged that I was in reality his good friend Lazarillo. To his testimony was added that of the captain of the vessel, who had escaped the wreck in the boat; he recognized me; and the place where the ship was lost being the spot where the fisher-

men

men acknowledged to have taken me up, the process was soon concluded.

My enemies were condemned to have two hundred lashes a piece, and all their property confiscated; one part to go to the king, another to the poor prisoners, and the third to Lazarillo. This property consisted of two thousand reals, two mules, and a cart; when all expences were paid, and the money divided, my share amounted to thirty ducats. Thus my enemies were stripped and punished, and I was rich and happy; never in my life had I been possessed of such a large sum. I went immediately to a friend's house to ask for some wine, for I could no longer bear the taste of the water in my mouth; when I had well rinsed it with half a dozen glasses, I began to think of equipping

equipping myself, which I did in a very handsome manner; and then walked about to shew myself, with the air of a nobleman, and faring like a king. I was now respected by my friends, feared by my enemies, and carested by every body.

All my past sufferings appeared only as a thorny road, leading to Paradise, where I fancied I was now arrived. Misfortunes humble man; prosperity intoxicates him. While my ducats lasted, I would not have yielded a point to a monarch; and this is the characteristic of the Spaniards; while they have a real in their purses, they fancy themselves princes. Ask any knave who he is, he will tell you directly he is well born, but his illfortune has degraded him; nor will he yield to any one, believing himself

himself as good as the best. All the Spaniards almost are the same in this respect; they would rather starve than work; if a few among them learn a trade, they hold it in such contempt, that they either neglect it, or perform it so ill, that there is not one good workman to be found in Spain.

I remember meeting with a botcher at Salamanca, who whenever he was sent for to any place to work, would always complain of his ill fortune, which had reduced him to take up that contemptible business, being descended from such and such houses, and born of parents distinguished for their noble actions, as much as their illustrious birth. I enquired one day of his neighbours, who were the parents of this self-named illustrious unfortunate. They told me that his
26 father

father pressed grapes in summer, and killed hogs in winter; and that his mother cleaned tripe.

I had bought myself a suit of cut velvet, and a cape of striped silk, and wore a sword, the end of which unpaved the streets. I had not yet been to see my wife, because I was very angry with her; but I now thought I would, as the sight of me, so smart, would make her repent her conduct, and that she would receive me with open arms; but a black never changes his skin; I found her newly married, and brought to bed. When she saw me she set up a great scream, saying, take away that sea monster! that scald pig! drive him out this moment, or I will get up and tear his eyes out! I answered coldly, don't alarm yourself, my dear; I have
as

as little regard for you, as you can possibly have for me ; give me up my child, and I will never trouble you more. To this she would not consent ; telling me the child was none of mine ; and as a proof, she gave me the certificate of its baptism, which compared with that of our marriage, shewed that Teresa was born four months after I was married. I was very much surpris'd at this, having always believed the child to be mine. I said nothing, however ; but shaking the dust from my shoes, and dipping my hands in water, as marks of my innocence and eternal farewell, I turned my back on the house, as well pleased as if I had never had any knowledge of his possessors.

I then went to seek my friends to relate what had happened ; they were desirous

desirous of affording me consolation under my supposed affliction; but I assured them I did not stand in need of it. I wished to find some employment, but did not chuse to resume my office of cryer; as it did not suit very well with my sword and velvet. As I was walking and considering this subject one day, I met an old woman of my acquaintance, who made up to me; she told me my wife repented of her ill-treating me, which she believed was partly owing to her having heard I was possessed of some money, and partly, because she had found the difference between her new husband Gabach, and her old one, Lazarrillo; the former, said she, laughing, has giving her a new fashioned dress. I asked what she meant, and how this change had come to pass? She told me that Don Lorenzo, and my wife, were

were one day consulting, whether it would not be better to recall me, and banish Gabach : each gave their reasons for and against. As it happened, the *bridegroom* overheard their conference ; he took no notice, however, at the time, but soon after the affectionate spouse going to an olive garden where he worked, to take him his dinner, he stript and bound her to a tree ; he then gave her a hundred lashes ; and packing up her clothes, took himself off with the booty, leaving her thus tied, naked, to a tree. Luckily for her, Don Lozenzo sent there to see what was become of her ; they found her groaning and half dead. The old woman added, she was sure my wife would willingly now be reconciled to me, for she had heard her within a few days, lamenting me and saying, what an unhappy woman
am

am I! why did I reject my poor Lazarillo! who was so good, so complaisant! he was never proud, suspicious or, scrupulous; but let me always do what I pleased.

This last stroke touched me to the very soul; a little matter would have persuaded me to take the old woman's advice, who recommended me to be reconciled to my wife; but I thought it right first to consult some of my friends.

CHAP.

CHAPTER IX.

*Lazarillo is persuaded to prosecute Don Lozenzo,
and his Wife.*

I HAVE often thought that men partake of the nature of hens, in this respect, that if they are about any thing meritorious, they take care to make such a noise that all the world is apprised of it ; whereas if we are inclined to commit any evil, we go about it very secretly, for fear any body should dissuade us from our intention.

I went to the house of one of my friends, in order to consult him on my case, and with him I found two others ; for since my change of fortune,

tune, these well-wishers multiplied around me, as flies surround fruit. I told them my design of being reconciled to my wife, and avoiding the scandal of evil tongues; that she had acknowledged her fault; and a confession of error was the surest token of amendment.

They all exclaimed violently against this plan; telling me, so far from putting a stop to scandal, I should excite it more strongly; that I should be looked upon as a mean spirited fellow to live again with such a notorious adulteress. In fine, they represented the disgrace that would attend me in such strong terms, that I resolved nothing should prevail on me to live with her again.

My friends perceiving the impression

sion their opinion made, went still further, and advised me to endeavour to wash out the stain on my reputation, and prevent the total loss of my honour, by instituting a suit against Don Lorenzo and my wife. They assured me it should not cost me a crown, because they should take up the cause, and having great influence in the courts of justice, their friend Lazarillo need not doubt of every thing turning out as he wished.

One of these, a solicitor of unfortunate causes, offered me an hundred ducats, to receive my profit in this business; another still more adroit in his profession, being attorney to certain *women of honour*, said, if he were in my place, he would not sell them for two hundred; and the third, who was a serjeant, assured me he

had known suits, where the proofs were by no means so clear, that had turned out very profitable to those who had undertaken them. He had greater hopes of mine too, because he was certain Don Lorenzo would offer me a sum of money immediately to be silent; and recommend himself an accommodation between my wife and me, which would be vastly more honourable to me. In short, they all talked to me so much, and made use of so many arguments, assuring me of success, that I was over-persuaded to yield to their counsel, though I should have been glad to consult some other friends, for I could not help feeling an inclination to be reconciled to my wife. I reflected on the many obligations I had to her; that till I became her husband I was unknown and unfriended; that I was indebted

indebted to her for being first able to hold up my head; and though to be sure, the people used to point at me, and called me in derision, the patient Lazarillo, yet I had lived comfortably through her means. As for the child, which she said was not mine, I thought she might be mistaken as well as me. Perhaps some good people may be inclined to laugh at my credulity, but before they indulge themselves, I request they will consider how many toil and fatigue themselves to provide for children, not their own, while they caress and honour the woman who injures their reputation, and renders them contemptible; who believe notwithstanding, that they have the best wife in the world. It may chance that he who laughs the most at me, may himself be equally entitled to the same

ridicule. But leaving to others the enjoyment of their own opinion, I proceed to the relation of my adventures. In spite of my own pacific wishes, I was prevailed on to pursue the suit against Don Lorenzo ; and as I had money, I obtained their imprisonment in twenty four hours. My lawyers told me I must not be sparing of my money, because, as all the expences would fall finally on Don Lorenzo, I should be reimbursed. In order to have a more complete revenge, they persuaded me to augment the expences, even to my last real. My law friends were attentive, careful, and eager in my cause, for they smelt gold, as bees smell honey ; every step was taken with effect ; so that in eight days my suit was in a very good, and my purse in a very bad way.

Proofs

Proofs were easily had, for the officers who went in the night to seize my wife, found Don Lorenzo in possession of my apartment, from whence he and my wife were conveyed in the same habiliments, as they rose from bed. Thus I had witnesses enough, and their proofs were allowed to be undeniable. But, my good friends, the solicitor, serjeant, and attorney, finding the weakness of my purse, disappeared all at once. I was obliged to go in search of them, and found, instead of being so alert as formerly, they required as much spurring as a hack mule; in short the delay was so great that it became known to Don Lozenzo, and his friends, who began to tamper with my lawyers, and found them so easy of access, that in a few days, with the assistance of *an argument* I could no longer offer,

they all went over to his side; the success now resembled clock weights; that of my enemies rising in proportion as mine sunk.

They managed the matter so well, that in a fortnight Don Lozenzo and my wife were released from prison, upon giving security; and in less than eight days after poor Lazarillo was condemned, for suborning false witnesses, to the ignominious punishment of standing in a sheet in the church; and after that to go into perpetual banishment.

I was obliged also to ask pardon; and this I acknowledge to be just, for what an error had I been guilty of! A man with twenty crowns, to plead against one who had twenty thousand. I was reduced to give even to my
shirt

shirt to pay the costs, and should have gone naked into exile, but for some old rags I found on a dunghill.

What a change had a short time made in my situation ! Lately I was rich and contented, pleading against one of the richest men in Toledo ; an undertaking fit only for a prince ; respected by my friends, feared by my enemies, and too much a man of honour, to suffer a stain on my reputation. Now, robbed of all, poor, miserable, deserted by my friends, scorned by my enemies, and laughed at by all ; banished too, from the place so long the object of my wishes and seat of my happiness. My sole consolation under this severe affliction, was, that since I was now at the very bottom of Fortune's wheel, I must necessarily

E 4

family soon gain a better situation, as that same wheel is always turning.

This idea I had imbibed from my old blind master. He often told me, that all mankind travelled on Fortune's wheel; some went with, some against its motion. Those who had the easy ascent, descended as rapidly as they rose; while those who ascended against the motion, though they attained the summit with difficulty, kept their station much longer than the others.

I found I was one of those who had ascended regularly, and the wheel turned so rapidly with me, that I was no sooner at top, than immediately I got to the bottom.

I went towards Madrid, asking alms
by

by the way ; and to excite charity, related all my misfortunes : some pitied, others laughed at me ; but upon the whole, I got sufficient to support me. So much wine had been made this year, that at every place where I stopped almost, they asked me if I would not drink, for they had no meat to give me. I never refused, so that some days it happened I drank three or four pints of wine fasting ; this I found vastly agreeable.

To confess the truth, the life of a beggar is in my opinion the pleasantest in the world ; no other deserves to be compared with it ; if the rich once knew the sweets of it, they would relinquish all their wealth in exchange for the happiness it bestows ; in imitation of the philosophers, who give up every thing to obtain such a life.

For the life of a beggar, and that of a philosopher, are the same; the only difference being, that the former yield every thing for the sake of philosophy, whereas beggars gain philosophy, without yielding up any thing for it. The former relinquish their possessions, that they they may not be interrupted in their contemplations of nature, divinity, and the movement of heavenly bodies. The latter that they may give themselves up to their inclinations. The philosophers throw their wealth into the sea; the beggars drown theirs in their stomachs. The one regards it as transitory and perishable, the others despise it, because it is to be obtained only by that labour they hold in such abhorrence. So that the life of a beggar is assuredly more easy, tranquil, and pleasant, than that of a king,

king, emperor, or pope; for this reason I have chosen it, as a path of more freedom, and less danger or misery than any other.

CHAPTER X.

Lazarillo becomes a Porter.

WHEN I arrived at Madrid I was so fortunate as to meet an old acquaintance. I consulted with him what I had best do in my situation, for I thought I might as well have two strings to my bow, that in case begging should sometimes be unprofitable, I might have another resource. He recommended to me, as my finances would not admit of my setting up in any very capital way, to turn porter, which he assured me was a very lucrative employment. I followed his advice, and purchasing a cord, went and took my station in the square, as contented as a cat that munches

munches tripe. The first who engaged me was one of those good natured nymphs that are to be found in all great cities. She led me a dance through so many streets, that I began to think she had a mind to make game of me; at length, however, she arrived at home: here she staid only a few minutes, and giving me a bundle, bid me follow her with it to the gate of Guadalvara, where she was going to take coach to go to the fair of Negara. The bundle was not heavy, for it consisted only of a few ribands, gallipots of paint, and phials of scented waters. As we went along she told me her history; that she was seduced at Seville, the place of her birth, by a young officer who when he was tired of her, placed her in the hands of an *old lady*, a *friend* of his, by whom she was robbed of every thing she

she possessed. In this situation she met with a young gentleman who took compassion of her; she lived with him till he died, and he left her a considerable sum of money; this she spent, and now lived on the public. I admired the frankness with which she related her adventures to me, but was rather inclined to think she carried this quality too far before we parted, for when we arrived at the place where the coach was waiting, I gave her the parcel, and desired to be paid. The fair damsel smiled, and asked me how I chose to be paid, by a kiss, or a box of the ear? I told her in great surprize, by neither; I was used to be paid by money. "Then, said she, if you won't chuse, I will;" and raising her hand, gave me such a blow on the side of my head as made my ears ring; adding, take that, novice;

novice; are you yet to learn that people of our profession never pay money? When she had said this, she leaped into the coach like a young doe, leaving me more ashamed than if I had been caught stealing a purse. Well, thought I, as soon as I came to my recollection, if this employment goes on as it has begun, I shall be very rich at the end of the year.

While I was making these reflections another coach arrived, which was come from Aleala de Henazes. The passengers were all scholars, women of pleasure, and monks. One of these last, of the order of St. Francis, asked me if I would carry his trunk to the convent; I said yes, thinking to be sure that he would not cheat me, as the young jade had done. He helped me to put it on my shoulders; the

the weight was so great that I could not have raised it without his assistance. I hoped, however, to be well paid for my fatigue in carrying it. I was almost overcome with fatigue by the time we reached the convent, which was at a great distance from the place whence we set out. When we got to the gate, the priest took the trunk from me, and going in, said to me, I thank you in the name of the Lord for the service you have rendered one of his servants; after which he shut the gate in my face. I stood some time in expectation that somebody would come to pay me, but finding them rather too deliberate in their motions, I knocked: the porter enquired what I wanted: I told him to be paid for the carriage of the trunk I had just brought. He desired me to go about my business, for they never paid away
money

money ; adding, that I must not make any more noise at the gate, as it was the hour of repose in the convent ; if I did I might expect a good beating : —he then shut the door.

I was quite thunder-struck at hearing this ; one of the poor people who had assembled there, told me I had better not lose my time by staying there, for the fathers never touched money, living always upon alms. Let them live upon what they will, replied I, it is necessary that I should live also ; they shall pay me, therefore ; for the labourer is worthy of his hire, or I am not Lazarillo de Tormes.

Saying this, I began once more to knock violently at the door, upon which a lay brother, a great strapping fellow came out, and without saying
with

with your leave or by your leave, gave me such a blow as brought me to the ground like a rotten pear, and then putting one knee on my stomach, he began pounding me as an apothecary pounds his drugs; he finished the ceremony by giving me a score blows with a hard twisted cord. I was as sorely bruised by this discipline, as if the tower that contains the great clock at Saragossa had fallen on me.

I remained full half an hour extended on the ground, without power to rise; my senses, were however, unimpaired. I reflected as I lay thus on my unhappy destiny, and the misapplication of strength of my degenerate Hercules. I thought the drones who inhabit convents, had better be employed in the service of their king and country, than take the bread out of the mouths of the poor. Though,
indeed,

indeed, they are not fit for that, being such a pack of fluggards. This was the opinion of our emperor (Charles the Fifth) too. When the general of the Cordeliers offered him two and twenty thousand priests to carry on the war, the oldest of which was not forty, nor the youngest two and twenty, he thanked him, but declined accepting it, saying, he must then have two and twenty thousand cooks; signifying thereby, that priests were more expert at table than at work.

Ever since that period, I have held the wole fraternity, (God forgive me) in such averfion, that I always think when I meet one of them in the world, I see a dove among the bees. The specimen I had had of the fruits of my employment, inclined me to resign it, but I thought I would give it a fair trial, and see the result of four and twenty hours experience.

CHAP.

CHAPTER XI.

Lazarillo meets an old Lady. The Consequence.

FAIN'T and almost dying of hunger, I crawled along till I came to the corn market; there I met an old lady who had the air of a devout; her teeth were so long, that they looked like the tusks of a boar. She came up to me, and asked if I would carry a chest to the house of a friend of hers who lived hard by, and that she would give me four-pence for doing it.

When I heard the sweet sound of being paid in money, I thanked providence, and told the good old dame that I would willingly do as she desired. Though, to be sure, I would rather have received the cash without carrying

carrying the burthen, for indeed, I stood more in need of being carried myself, than fit to carry any thing for others. It was with the utmost difficulty I supported the weight of the chest, which was very large and heavy. The old lady desired me to go along very carefully, because the chest contained some phials in it of great value. I assured her I would move very cautiously; indeed I could not do otherwise, being scarce able to move from pain and hunger. We had not far to go, happily for me. When we arrived, the old lady was very well received by her friends, who carested her, and particularly a pretty young damsel, who seemed particularly delighted at her visit. My employer told her she was going to Segovia, and wished, in her absence, that she might be permitted to leave it with her friends; the young lady

lady offered to take care of it, and receiving the key, promised, smiling, to be true to her trust. The old lady then took leave, thanking her father and mother for their permission of leaving her trunks there, and whispering the young one, who blushed like a new blown rose. At her departure she gave me the four-pence she had promised, telling me, if I would come to her house again the next morning, I might earn the same sum.

I went away as happy as a prince, and laid out three-pence on my supper, the other penny I reserved to pay my night's lodging. I now reflected on the power of money. By the acquisition of this four-pence, I was become as light as air, as valiant as Roland, and as strong as Hercules.

Oh

Oh money! money! it is not without reason that so many people idolize thee as a divinity! Thou art the cause of all evil; the inventor of all arts; and 'tis thou who preservest them. To thee it is owing that the sciences are valued, and opinions maintained; that towns are fortified, and castles demolished; that kingdoms are gained, and kingdoms are lost. Tis thou who preservest virtue, and thou who destroyest it. In fine, there is nothing so difficult but thou canst render easy, nothing so concealed, but thou canst discover it. No mountain so high, that thou canst not level it; nor abyss so deep, but thou canst elevate it.

The next day I went to the old lady's house, as she desired. She bad me follow her to the house where we had been the day before, to fetch back
the

the trunk. When we got there, she told the master of the house that she had met the relation she was going to see at half a league's distance from Madrid, where she was coming with the same intention as she herself had set out, to see how her friend did. That as her journey was therefore deferred, she was come to fetch her trunk. The young lady returned the key, kissing and embracing the old lady with still more ardor than the day before. They both helped me to put the trunk upon my shoulder, whispering each other all the while. I thought that it was lighter than the day before, because I was more at my ease, and therefore my heart was lighter.

In going down stairs, I trod upon a stick, which my good friend the devil

devil placed there on purpose, I verily believe. It rolled under my feet, and threw me, trunk and all to the bottom, where stood the father and mother of the *innocent* girl. The violence of the fall bruised me, and was attended with other fatal consequences; for the lock of the trunk giving way, discovered, that it contained a young cavalier armed cap-a-pee.

He had no cloak on, but was dressed in a short coat and breeches of green velvet; a hat with a feather of the same colour; garters of a bright carnation; green stockings, and white shoes. He jumped up with great agility and grace, and making a low bow, walked out at the door. The old people were thunderstruck at the sight of this vision. They looked at each other for a considerable time

without speaking; at length, recovering from their astonishment, they called their two sons, and related to them what had happened. These young heroes foamed with rage at hearing the story, and taking their swords, swore they would murder the defiler of their house. The old people then went in search of the old woman to wreak their vengeance on her; but she having heard the noise, and suspecting the occasion of it, made off by a back door, taking her young pupil with her. Finding themselves thus disappointed, they returned and fell upon me without mercy; for I was so overpowered by the weight of the chest, my bruises, and weak state, that I could not get up; I should otherwise most certainly have followed the example of those who had brought me into this scrape.

The

The brothers soon returned, puffing and blowing, sweating and swearing, for they had not been able to overtake the gallant; and they now vowed they would murder the old woman and their sister, who had brought such disgrace on them.

One said, had he met the villain, though he had been surrounded by an infernal troop of the most furious demons, he would have cut them to pieces like so many flies. Approach! approach! (added he) thou devil! Rodolphus fears thee not! tis thou who art in awe of him, and durst not appear before him. Could I see that wretch, I would with my breath blow him to such a distance that he should never more be heard of. The other said, if I caught him, the largest piece left of him would have been his ear.

But if he is upon earth, or even if he is not, he shall not escape my clutches. For though he were to hide himself in the very bowels of the earth, I would draw him thence.

While they were thus rhodomontading, I expected when they would turn their rage upon poor Lazarillo. But I was more afraid of six or seven little mischievous children who were assembled round me, than of those braggadocias. I was not deceived; for great and small all at once fell upon me. Some pinched me, others scratched me; they pulled my hair, and beat me, till I cried out murder.

The blows came so quick after each other, that it was like threshing corn, or milling cloth, where the strokes of
the

the mallet are incessant. At length, perceiving that I was breathless, they ceased to beat, but not to threaten me; some were for throwing me into the water; others for killing me. The old father interfered now, and desired them to desist, promising me if I would inform him who the villain was that had robbed him of his honour, he would set me at liberty.

It was impossible I could comply with this, because I had never seen the gallant till he had come out of the trunk. I assured them I did not know him; upon which they began again. I did nothing but sigh, groan, and lament my hard fate, which destined me perpetually to new misfortunes and incessant misery. I made signs as well as I could that I would tell them all if they would let me

alone. They then desisted, and I proceeded to relate literally all that had happened.---They did not believe me, however. Seeing that the tempest was not likely to cease, I resolved to deceive them if I could. I therefore told them, I would inform them of what they wanted to know, if they would attend to me. They then left off beating me, and promised wonders, if I satisfied them. They asked me his name, and where he lived? I replied, that I could tell neither one nor the other; but, that if they would carry me through the streets, (to walk was impossible, in my situation) I would shew them his house.

They appeared rejoiced at this, and gave me some wine, which greatly refreshed me. They then armed them-

themselves, and taking me under the arms like a bridegroom, carried me about the town. The people, as they went along, made their observations aloud ; one said, there's a man going to prison ; another supposed I was going to the hospital ; but none offered to give me a clane. Mean time I continued my route, very much disturbed at the thoughts of how this would end. Sometimes I thought of crying out for help ; but I considered that they would then prefer a complain against me to justice, and this I dreaded more than death. To escape was impossible too, even if I had strength to run away, being surrounded by the relations of the young wanton who had brought this mischief on me, who were armed like so many St. George's.

We went on traversing streets and
 F 4 lanes,

lanes, they not knowing where they were going, nor I where I was directing them. At length we arrived at the Sun-gate, in one of the streets leading to which we perceived a smart cavalier walking,---he had his cloak under his arm, a cane in one hand, and a nosegay in the other; by his air and manner, one should have taken him for the cousin-german of the emperor. As he approached nearer, I discovered that he was no other than my old friend and master, *the squire of Old Castile*, who had stolen my cloaths and purse. I thanked fortune for this rencontre, and resolved to kill two birds with one stone, by extricating myself out of my present difficulty, and being revenged on him. I therefore said, gentlemen, here comes the person we are in search of; he has been home I see to change his dress.

This

This was enough for people who were blinded by their rage. Without asking any more questions, they all flew upon him at once, they knocked him down, and then began to pummel and pinch him as they had served me. One of the valiant brothers seeing he could make no defence, was going to run him through the body, but the father prevented him; and sending for some officers of justice, delivered the cavalier into their hands. When I saw all were engaged, I seized the opportunity, and escaped to a place which concealed me effectually.

My friend, the squire, it seems, had recognized me, and supposing those who had accompanied me were relations that came to demand the property he had robbed me of, told them if they would let him alone, he would

pay for two suits. But they stopped his mouth with their fists. They then led him, all over blood and dirt, to prison. And as soon as the coast was clear, I quitted my hiding place, cursing the business I had followed there, and all who employed me in it.

One could make no defence, was going to run him through the body, but the father prevented him; and sending for some officers of justice, delivered the cavalier into their hands. When I saw all were engaged, I seized the opportunity, and escaped to a place which concealed me effectually.

My friend, the squire, it seems, had recognized me, and supposing those who had accompanied me were relations that came to demand the property, had not dreamed of taking them. It is probable that he would have paid

CHAPTER XII

*Lazarillo resolves to return to his native Place. His
Adventures on the Road.*

I WISHED to have quitted Madrid immediately, but my strength was not answerable to my resolution. Hence I was obliged to remain a few days longer. And I was not very ill off during this time; for being obliged to make use of crutches, I excited so much compassion, that the alms bestowed on me enabled me to live very comfortably. I believe the comfort I found here would have led me to remain some time longer, but one day, as I was taking my dinner, I heard a man relate the history of the trunk exactly as it happened; adding

F 6

what

what I had not heard, that the cavalier who was put in prison upon presumption of his being the knight of the chest, had proved an alibi. The people where he lived vouching, that he had neither been out of the house, or worn any other clothes that day. But, notwithstanding this he had been banished disgracefully from Madrid as a vagabond; and that the brothers of the girl were in search of the porter who had deceived them, swearing, if they found him, to beat him to death.

I opened my eyes as wide as my ears at this discourse, and took myself off immediately.---I got myself a green patch to put over one eye, and shaved my beard like a Monk's, which so completely disguised, that my own mother could not have known me.

I quitted

I quitted Madrid, and took the road to Tezares, resolving to pay a visit to my native place, and try if that would be more favourable to me than every other place had proved.

Before I had gone half a league I met with a company of gipsies, who took up their abode in a cavern underground. Seeing me at a distance, they took me for one of their own fraternity; indeed my appearance justified the supposition; but on my nearer approach they discovered their error, and went aside as if to hold a consultation among themselves. I enquired my way of them, and they told me I was not in the road to Salamanca, but to Valladolid. As I had no particular reason to prefer one place to another, I told them I would, since my face was turned that way, go to
Valladolid,

Valladolid, and see that city, before I returned to my native place.

One of the oldest of these people asked me of what place I was? and when I answered of Tezares, he desired me to stay and dine with him, as I loved my neighbour; for that he was of Salamanca. I accepted his offer; and when we had dined, the company requested I would relate the adventures of my life to them. I complied without much entreaty, and recounted every particular in as concise a manner as possible. When I came to the part that described the overthrow of the tub that held the poor triton, at the inn in Madrid, they all burst out a laughing, especially a young man and woman, whose mirth was more strongly excited than any body's else. I began to blush, think-

thinking they were making game of me. But my neighbour, the old gipsy, told me not to be ashamed, for that they did not laugh at my adventures, which were calculated to inspire admiration, rather than ridicule. That since I had placed so much confidence in them, it was right they should return it; and therefore relying on my secrecy, he would, with their permission, relate the cause of their laughing. Having obtained the leave of the company, he proceeded, as will be seen in the next chapter.

CHAPTER XIII.

Story of the Gipsy.

YOU are to know then, said the old gipsy, that the young man and woman who laughed so heartily, are those who jumped through the window when the deluge from the tub threatened to drown them. As they will, however, relate more exactly than I can what has happened to them since, and the cause of their being among us, I must beg them to inform you of their adventures themselves. The chaste heroine, then, in a voice that captivated the attention of her illustrious auditors, proceeded thus with the story.

“ The day that I quitted, or rather fled from my father’s house with Signor Vruez, whom you see here, you may remember we were overtaken, and imprisoned. I was placed in a room furnished in the most elegant manner by those ingenious artists the spiders, and perfumed with all the odours of garlic, gin, tobacco, &c. My lover, less fortunate, was confined in a dungeon. He did not remain there long, however, for having some rich relations, they found means to deliver him. I was given to the care of the commander, who being young and gallant, and finding me not ugly, became more the slave of my charms than I was of his power. To this circumstance I was indebted for a speedy change in my situation. I was removed to a better apartment, and treated like a captive princess. My
governor

governor omitting nothing to render my abode there agreeable to me. It was in vain that my parents (who loved me in spite of their resentment) attempted to obtain my release; they were counteracted in all their schemes by the commander, who could not bear the thoughts of losing me.

“ In the mean time, my lover, Signor Vruetz, to whom I was still constant in spite of all the assiduities of my new admirer, was devising various stratagems to obtain an interview with me. At length he succeeded, by the means of one of those kind-hearted old ladies who are to be met with at every corner of the street in Spain. She dressed him up as a servant maid, muffling his face to conceal his beard, under pretence of the tooth-ach.

“ I will

“ I will not pretend to describe our mutual joy at this meeting, but proceed to inform you of the means we contrived for our escape. A ball was given that evening by the Count de la Mirandole, at which the gipseys were to dance a ballet. Signor Renard (the name my lover bears in this community) engaged them in his interest, and a plan was agreed on, which succeeded so well, that I obtained my liberty, and the company of my lover, which is more dear to me than any thing else in the world.

“ The first step to be taken was to engage my new admirer to allow me to see the ball. To this end I employed a thousand caresses and endearments, making more vows than are offered up during a storm at sea. He was so charmed by my conduct, that

that he could refuse me nothing. He desired me to ask what I would ; that my wishes should be the directors of his conduct, provided they did not deprive him of my society."

"I made him many acknowledgments for his kindness, and told him his absence was death to me ; that my dread of parting with him, even for a few hours, were such, I begged he would allow me to attend him to the ball that night, as his going was indispensable. This was a very difficult matter ; however, he was too much blinded by his love to refuse me any thing.

"He told me that it would be necessary for me to disguise myself ; and he thought the most effectual way would be to dress myself as a page ;
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this being agreed on, he procured me a very magnificent suit. The colour was green, trimmed with broad gold; the cloak velvet, lined with yellow sattin; a cap, with a plume of heron's feathers, and a chain of diamonds; a ruff of the finest lace, yellow silk stockings, with green garters, and white shoes; a sword and dagger, with gold hilts.

“ Thus equipped, I attended the commander to the ball. I found there a vast number of people of quality very richly dressed. There were also several in masks and veils. I was soon joined by Signor Renard, who kept close to me all the time, but without speaking, to avoid suspicion. I shall pass over all other occurrences of the ball, to come to that which particularly concerns us. The ballet which
the

the Egyptians were to dance, was scarcely began, when one said, you are out ; the other replied, you lie ; this was answered by the first speaker's running him through the body. The blood followed the sword so quickly, that it seemed as if an ox had been killed. The guards, who at first thought the quarrel was a part of the entertainment, now began to cry out, justice ! help ! justice ! All the men drew their swords ; I was obliged to follow their example, though I trembled, and was ready to faint at the sight of the very sword in my own hand.

The man who had given the stroke was seized, and given into the charge of the commander, who was obliged to attend him to prison. He would fain have taken me with him, but was
afraid

afraid of my being discovered, therefore contented himself with desiring me, in a whisper, to await his return in a corner of the room he pointed out. As soon as we were sure of his departure, Signor Renard taking me under his arm, led me into the street, where one of his friends was waiting, who conveyed us immediately to his lodgings.

When the wounded gipsy, whom we supposed dead by this time, had notice from a private signal that we were safe, he jumped up to the astonishment of the whole company, saying, we hope, ladies and gentlemen, you will allow we are good actors, since we have so effectually deceived all present. Learn that I am neither killed, or even wounded; but devised this stratagem merely to divert this illustrious assembly." When he had thus

thus ended his speech, he shewed them a bladder, placed under his waistcoat, which being pierced by the sword, had produced the effect which surprised them so much. All the company were delighted with this scene, except the poor commander, who had indeed reason to be very much dissatisfied. When he returned to the place where he had appointed me to stay, he appeared surprised not to find me there. He searched every part of the room in vain; he then came out, and applying to one of the people who had been placed there for the purpose, enquired if he had seen a young man pass dressed in such a manner? The person replied, he had; and that he got into a coach and ordered the driver to go towards St. Philips.

“ Upon

“ Upon this information, my lover set out instantly in pursuit of us, but was doomed to a fruitless search that night; for he went to the east, while we made our escape at the west. I had taken the precaution before I quitted Madrid to change my dress, which we sold for upwards of two hundred reals. We got four hundred crowns for the chain, two hundred of which I gave to those gentlemen, according to Signor Renard’s promise; and from them I have learnt the circumstances that occurred after my departure from the ball.

“ This is the history of my release; if there is any other information in my power to give the noble Signor Lazarillo, I beg he will command me; his gallant appearance intitles him to our poor services.”

Here the lovely Egyptian concluded. I thanked her and the whole company in the politest terms that I could find, for their civilities; and took my leave. The old man insisted on bearing me company half a league on my way. As we went along, I asked him if all those we had parted from were born in Egypt? He laughed at the notion, and assured me in his own language, the devil of one was born out of Spain; that they were all cheats, robbers, monks, and nuns, who had escaped from prisons and convents. That none seemed to enjoy the way of life so much as those who came from the monasteries; and that they were always employed upon occasions that required extraordinary finesse. With this, and such conversation, the old man

man entertained me till we parted, which was done with mutual regret; he returned to his society, and I took the road to Valladolid.

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CHAP.

CHAPTER XIV.

Lazarillo's Rencontre at an Inn near Valladolid.

I REFLECTED as I went along, on the lives and customs of the community I had left, and was astonished that such a set of vagabonds were allowed to roam about plundering and cheating all that came in their way; for all the world knew them to be errant thieves and impostors.

Their societies are but so many seminaries for apostates, and schools for wickedness. I was particularly struck, by hearing, that those who had known the sweets of a quiet monastic life, should quit it for one so wretched as that of the gipsy's. I
should

should scarcely have credited what my informer had said, but that he shewed me at a distance a young man and woman who were not yet tanned by the sun; they were sitting under a tree singing psalms. "Those, said the old man, are a monk and a nun, who, within these eight days have changed their community for ours, in order to embrace a more *austere* life.

When I got within a little distance of Valladolid, I saw at the door of an inn the old woman who had caused me so much misery at Madrid. Before I approached her near enough to speak, the knight of the chest and his fair mistress came out to invite her in to dinner. I was so disguised that they could not know me. I therefore followed them in, and placed myself

myself so as to be seen by them, to try if they would give me a plaister for the wounds received in their service. But I soon found they were not in a condition to give any thing away. The gallant had been so liberal in his treats to his mistress and her duenna, that they were now reduced to content themselves with a little bit of hog's liver stewed with garlic. I could have swallowed the whole in two mouthfuls. Their bread was as black as the table-cloth, which resembled the tunick of a penitent, or a foot bag.

"Eat, my life, said the lover to his mistress; this fricassée is fit for the emperor." The old lady did not require urging; she would not speak, lest it should interrupt her eating; in a short time they had scraped the dish

dish so clean, that even all the varnish was gone as well as the sauce.

This wretched meal finished, which had rather excited their appetite than satisfied it, the gallant began to make excuses for the short commons, alledging that the house was ill provided. I owed him a grudge for all he had caused me to suffer, and therefore was not sorry to mortify them a little. I called to the host, and enquired what I could have for dinner; he told me according to the price I was willing to pay. Having named a good sum, he told me I should have a hind quarter of kid. When ready, it was brought according to my directions to the bottom of the table, where they were placed. When I began to eat, it was highly gratifying to me to observe their looks with every

mouthful I swallowed ; three pair of large eyes which were fixed immovably on every morsel.

The young damsel began to employ her tongue soon as well as her eyes. "How is this, said she, that poor wretch has a whole quarter of a kid for his own dinner, and we had only a mouthful of sorry fricassée for three of us." Her lover replied, that he had asked the host for some fowls or partridges ; but he had assured him that he had nothing else in the house. I heard this without seeming to attend, but kept eating on. I perceived, however, that the kid had the property of the loadstone ; its attraction was so strong, that when I least expected it, I found three forks in my dish. First the young lady reached out her hand and helped herself, saying,

ing, with your leave friend; but she thought the compliment enough, not waiting permission. The old woman reproved her for robbing the poor. The young one defended herself by saying she would pay me; and set to again as if she had not tasted any thing for a week. The old woman's scruples being thus removed, she began to help herself; and the gallant observing that it must needs be excellent, since they relished it so much, seized a piece as big as his fist, and crammed it into his mouth all at once.

As this freedom was not quite so agreeable to me as it seemed to them, I resolved to put a stop to it, and therefore snatching up what remained, I put it into my mouth; but when I got it there, I found my eye bigger than

my mouth, for the devil a bit would it stir either one way or the other.

In the midst of my distress from this awkward accident, two cavaliers well armed, arrived at the inn. They enquired if they could have any thing to eat? the host assured them they should have whatever they pleased, and requested them in the mean time to walk into the parlour.

The old woman, who at the sound of the horses' feet, went to the door to satisfy her curiosity, returned in a violent fright, wringing her hands; she ran up to the young lady, whose name was Clara, and in a low voice, trembling, told her they were ruined, for her brothers were arrived.

The fair damsel began to tear her
hair,

hair, and beat herself like one distracted. Her lover attempted to console her, assuring her she had nothing to fear in his presence; that he would protect her with the last drop of his blood.

Incommoded as I was with my *mouthful* (literally speaking) of kid, I felt less concerned from the fear of being choaked, than from apprehensions respecting these youths who were approaching; indeed they were so great, I thought I should have died; and verily believe I should too, but that my gullet being stopped up, the soul which I felt rising to my mouth was prevented escaping, and therefore returned to its habitation.

The instant these valiant Hectors entered the room, they perceived the

old duenna, their sister, and her lover ; upon which they exclaimed ; so ! so ! here they are ! we have them now ! let them escape if they can ! they shall suffer for their crime ! we will wash the stain out with their blood ! I was so alarmed at their threats, that I fell down, and with such force, that the piece of kid flew out of my mouth, and bounded to the very cieling. When the heroes had finished their speech, they made up to the fair Clara ; her champion however interrupted them ; and drawing his sword, prepared to attack them with so much courage, that they remained motionless. The words seemed to freeze in their mouths, and the swords in their scabbards. The lover asked them in the true rhodomontade stile of a Spaniard, what they wanted ? and who they were in searh of ? and at the

the same time seizing one of their swords, he held it to the throat of the owner, directing his own to the eyes of the other, while they trembled like aspen leaves. The old woman and their sister observing them so pale and frightened, went up to them and took away the rest of their arms. For my part, seeing things take this turn, I got upon my legs, and had seized one of these valiant youths by the beard, when the host came in to enquire the cause of the noise he heard.

These braggadocias reminded me of the counterfeit bulls of my country, which the children are so much afraid of at first sight; but observing them not quite so furious in reality as they appear, they gain courage by degrees, and at last approach them so near, that

that the deception being found out, they treat them with all sorts of indignity. Thus I, perceiving these youths not what they had affected, grew bold, and attacked them with a degree of courage beyond what my late fright seemed to promise my being possessed of.

When the landlord enquired the cause of this confusion, the women, their champion, and myself, told him those men were thieves, who had set upon us with a design to rob us. The landlord seeing them disarmed, and us victorious, took part with the strongest. "How, said he, thieves in my house!" and without attending to any thing they alleged, took them by the collar, and put them into a vault under ground. A boy whom they had hired to carry their portmanteau,

manteau, and take care of their horses, hearing they were seized, took horse, and made off so expeditiously for fear of being involved in their disgrace, that there was no fear of our story being disproved on his evidence.

The landlord seeing a prospect of such good booty, (for the boy, that he might not be incommoded in his retreat, had left the baggage behind) began a process immediately against the supposed robbers; and to induce us to sign it, would insist on not being paid for what we had eaten.

Then in quality of member of the court of inquisition, which he professed himself, and officer of justice for that district, he condemned the delinquents to receive two hundred lashes, and be sent to the galleys.

The

The prisoners appealed to the Chancelry of Valladolid, where the landlord attended them, with three of his servants. But when the poor devils thought to plead in a court of justice, they found themselves before the inquisition. For their accuser had inserted in his process, a charge against them of speaking disrespectfully concerning the officers of the holy inquisition; a crime never pardoned.

They were put into a dungeon, and forbidden the use of pen and ink; so that they could not apprise their relations or friends of their situation to obtain relief. Here we shall leave them for the present, and proceed to inform my readers, that as we were going towards Valladolid, we met the landlord returning from his errand. He told us the court of inquisition had
ordered

ordered him to bring the witnesses before them. However, as our friends, he would advise us to conceal ourselves, or make our escape from that neighbourhood.

The young lady gave him a ring from her finger, begging him at the same time to assist their flight, since there was nothing she so much dreaded as being brought before that court. This he readily promised to do; for the rascal had only given this alarm to engage us to fly the place, fearing, that if the witnesses were interrogated, his villainy would be discovered.

This was not the only thing of the kind he had done. A fortnight after, I saw the two victims, among many other penitents, come out of the inquisition to walk in procession: they were

were gagged, to signify that they had been guilty of blasphemy, in traducing the ministers of the holy inquisition; beings as perfect and upright as the justice they administer.

Each offender wore a mitre, and *sana benito*, on which were written their crime, and consequent punishment. I confess, though I knew their innocence, I did not feel much pity for them, because they had none for me, as my bones still could testify. The sentence passed on them, was to receive three hundred lashes, and be sent to the gallies; so that in all, they received five hundred, and were pretty well cured of their rhodomontade and bragging, I fancy.

I often met these friends of mine afterwards near the Magdelans; they
did

did not know me, and I was not much inclined to renew the acquaintance. I learnt too that their sister went into a convent of *kind-hearted nuns*; and that the old woman followed her usual occupation in the same place.

WHEN I arrived at Valladolid, I had six reals in my pocket, for many charitable people, seeing me to pale, and weak, relieved me with a liberal hand, and I received their alms with one that was not niggardly; I went to a tale shop, and bought for four reals, a long cloak of tinsel, which had been the property of a Portuguese, and to be sold as rather the worse for wear. With another half real, I purchased a hat with a deep rim, and a crown as high as a chimney; thus equipped, and a stick in my hand, I walked in the square. Every body mocked me as I passed;

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CHAPTER XV.

Lazarillo becomes the Valet of seven Mistresses.

WHEN I arrived at Valladolid, I had six reals in my pocket, for many charitable people seeing me so pale, and weak, relieved me with a liberal hand, and I received their alms with one that was not niggardly; I went to a sale shop, and bought for four reals, a long cloak of frieze, which had been the property of a Portugueze, and to be sure was rather the worse for wear. With another half real, I purchased a hat with a deep rim, and a crown as high as a chimney; thus equipped, and a stick in my hand, I walked in the square. Every body mocked me as I passed ;

one

one said I was a philosopher of Bacchus; another, there goes St. Peter in his holiday clothes; another, hello! Signor Ratsbane! will you have some tallow to grease your boots? another swore I was a skeleton who had just walked from the furgeons. I made no answer to these ralleries, but passed on as if I had been deaf.

Passing along a street I met a woman with a young boy, who seemed to serve her for a walking stick, for she held her hand on his head. She stopped me to enquire if I knew of any one who wanted the place of usher; I told her I knew of no other than myself; that if I suited her, I should be proud to serve her.

We agreed upon the spot; she engaged

gaged to give me three pieces of three
clanes for my weeks salary, and I took
possession of my office, by giving her
my arm. I threw away my stick,
which I had only made use of as to
shew my weakness, and excite com-
passion. She then sent the boy home,
desiring him to tell the maid to get
the dinner ready by the time she
returned. We traversed the town
for two hours, and I found I had got
into the service of one of the greatest
gossips in Valladolid. The first place
we went to, finding I was but a no-
vice in my business, she told me I
must go before her to the house she
meant to visit, and enquire if the
mistress was at home ; and if she was,
inform her that Dame Pirez (the name
of my mistress) was come to pay her
respects to her. I promised to do
exactly as she desired. My mistress
was

was veiled so, that I did not yet know what sort of a woman she was; my curiosity I own was strongly excited on the occasion; I wished to know whether she was young or old, handsome or ugly.

As we were going along, she told me she was not in a situation that permitted her to keep a servant to herself, and that she must, therefore, go among her neighbours to find some who wanted one; and altogether would pay me the wages she had engaged for. She enquired if I had a lodging; I told her not; she said, then I might sleep at her house with the apprentices, her husband being a taylor. She assured me I should find myself as well off as in any place in that city, and in three days time should

should have six mistresses, who would each give me a clane per day.

I was astonished at the pomposity of this woman, whom one should have taken at least for the wife of a gentleman, if not a nobleman; and not greatly rejoiced to find I was to serve six mistresses, for such a poor pittance as six clanes a day.

I considered, however, that this was better than starving; and what farther reconciled me to it was, that no work was required; this I always dreaded like the devil, and had rather subsist upon cabbage and garlic, without labour, than regale upon capons and partridges, with it.

When we got home, my mistress gave me her cloak and veil to carry away;

away ; I then saw her face which I had so much desired ; she was not ugly, being tall, clear complexioned, and of a good mien. But not contented with the gifts of nature, she had tried to conceal a brown skin, under a varnish of white paint, which made it shine like a glazed plate, or an earthen porringer.

She gave me a clane, desiring me to come to her twice a day, at eight in the morning, and three in the afternoon, to know if I was wanted.

I went then to a pastry cook's, where I made a miserable dinner on a little patté, for my whole wages. The rest of the day was passed wretchedly enough, for all the money I had received in alms, was spent, and I dared not ask more, for if my

mistress had heard of it, I suppose she would have been ready to eat me. At three o'clock I returned to her; she told me she should not want me that day, and gave me to understand for the future, she should only pay me my wages on those days she went out; and if she went out but once, I must expect to receive only half the sum proposed; that moreover she should expect, as she gave me my lodging, that I was to call myself her valet. Undoubtedly, she was intitled to this distinction, in favour of the bed, as my readers will judge from a description of it:—it consisted of a large table, with simply, an old dirty coverlid. I resolved from this moment, always to distrust splendid promises, for I had experienced in the present case, and in that of the squire, that those who

who were most profuse in that coin, seldom pay in any other.

Two days I passed in this wretched way; at the end of that time, the wife of a tanner entered into the community, and bargained above an hour with me, about the paltry sum she was to pay. In fine, at the end of seven days, I had seven mistresses, from each of whom I received a clane for wages. I now began to live luxuriously; I eat and drank plentifully, if not of the best, at least of what was wholesome, for I resolved to *cut my coat according to my cloth.*

My five other mistresses were, the widow of a bailiff; the wife of a gardiner; a very pretty young woman, who passed for the cousin of a bare-footed Carmelite; and a vender of

H 2 tripe;

tripe; this last was my favorite of all my mistresses, for she always gave me something relishing to eat whenever I went to her house. There was scarce a day I did not eat three or four messes of excellent soup with her; so that I had nothing left to pray for, but a continuance of this good fortune. I must not forget to mention my seventh mistress; she was a devotee, and gave me more trouble than all the rest; for she was fond of an active life, always bustling about; when her limbs were quiet, her tongue was sure to be going, so that she was in perpetual motion. Of all the hypocrites I ever beheld, this woman was the greatest. When she walked out, her eyes were never raised from the earth, nor her hands removed from her beads. All who met her were so struck by her sanctified air, that they begged to be remembered in her prayers,

prayers, saying, they were sure they must be successful. She replied, that she was a great sinner; and she spoke truth; for she attempted to deceive, even while she told it.

Each of my mistresses had their appointed hour, so that when I left one, I went to the other, till I had finished my task; and, if by chance I was not punctual to a moment, they abused me like a pickpocket, let who would be present, threatening me if I did not pay more attention, they would provide themselves with a usher who was more diligent, attentive, and exact. To have heard these women menace in such a pompous stile, any body would have thought they had given me two reals a-day, and thirty ducats a year salary. It was truly ridiculous to see them

walking in the streets; they assumed such consequence, that those who saw them, took them for the wives of a president, or at least of an officer in chancery.

One day, it happened, that the fair cousin of the Carmelite, and the bailiff's widow, met at church; each wanted to return home immediately, and desired me to attend them first; hence a violent dispute arose, and at length they began to pull my cloak; the maid took me one side, the widow the other, and pulled me with such violence, that they tore it in a cruel manner. I was thus left almost naked, having only an old dirty shirt underneath, that looked like a fisherman's net. Those who saw my poor shriveled skin through the holes, laughed till their sides shook. The church seemed
more

more like a tavern, than a place of worship; some amused themselves with laughing at poor Lazarillo; others attended to the fair dames, who, not contented with relating all they had ever heard against each other, disturbed the very ashes of the dead, by reciting all the scandal of the preceeding generations. Fathers and mothers, grandfathers and grandmothers, were rogues and ——.

I was so anxious to gather up the pieces of my cloak, that I did not stay to hear the end of the dialogue. I only heard the nymph say, wherefore so proud, you impudent jade; do you think, because you wear a silk gown now, that people will forget you were once without one?

Mind your own affairs, you slut,
H 4 returned

returned the gentle widow ; to what do you owe your fine clothes ? The blessing of the church, forsooth ; if you had the gown you deserve, it would be horse-hair. Before I got out of the place, they had proceeded to blows ; and but for the interposition of the spectators, would have torn each others eyes out. I met a devotee at the door, whom I asked for a few pins, with which I fastened the pieces of my cloak together as well as I could, and thought of the old proverb, that “ *a tattered cloak may cover a good drinker.* ” When I had done this, I went to my commander in chief, the taylor’s wife, who had ordered me to attend her at eleven o’clock, as she was going to dine with some of her friends. When she saw the condition of my cloak, she began to scold most furiously, saying, do you think, you rascal, to
receive

receive my wages, and to attend upon me, dressed like a blackguard? For less than I give you, I could have an usher neatly dressed with a cloak, doublet, and hose, and a smart cap, and one who was sober; for your part, you do nothing but get drunk, you sot.

I must be very ingenious, thought I, to get drunk with five or six clanes at most; and again, in my heart, cursed the pomposity and pride of my country. My mistress made some of the journeymen sew the pieces of my cloak together, which they did in such a hurry, that they were placed upside down. And thus accoutred, I conducted my mistress.

CHAPTER XVI.

What happens to Lazarillo at a Feast.

WE went in as great a hurry as a priest who is invited to a good dinner, for my mistress was afraid there would not be enough left for her. When we arrived at the place, we found many others there who had been invited. The mistress of the ceremonies enquired if I might be trusted to keep the door? Go then friend, said she, and you shall not keep fast to-day.

Several young men came in; one took a partridge out of his pocket, another a fowl, a third a rabbit, others beef, mutton, sausages, and nice pies. They

They gave them all to the cook; and while they were preparing, went in to entertain the ladies. I must leave the imagination of my readers to guess what passed at this curious meeting, since it is impossible to describe it. This comedy finished, the noble assembly went to dinner. The ladies eat the *kiries*, and the gallants drank *l'ite missa est*. The former began to fill their pockets, the latter to empty theirs. Some produced cheese, others apples, olives, and sweetmeats.

This mode of keeping one's dinner so close at hand, pleased me much. I resolved to have three or four pockets in the very next doublet it should please Providence to send me, of which one should be made of leather, to hold soup; for certainly, if such great folks as these could condescend to carry their

H 6

food,

food, the one raw, and the others dressed, in their pockets; I, who was only the usher of *complaisant ladies*, might do it with propriety.

When these gentlefolks had dined, their servants went to follow their example; but the devil of any thing there was but soup; and I was surprised that the ladies did not put even this into their sleeves. We had not half finished our meal, when we heard a violent noise in the dining-room; and going to learn the cause, we found our mistresses disputing about precedence, and the superiority of their birth; some boasted of the rank of their parents, others of their husbands; and finding it impossible to settle the matter by words, they came to blows; boxes of the ear, kicks, pinches, and scratches, went about at a great rate; some

some not content with this, tore each others hair off by handfuls; in short, they were so discomposed, that they looked like furies. It so happened, that the peace officers passed during this uproar. As they could not fail to hear the noise, they knocked at the gate, and ordered it to be opened immediately.

The instant our gentry found who were there, they ran away to hide themselves, leaving hats, caps, swords, and cloaks behind them. For my part, having nothing to fear, I opened the door, that I might not be accused of resisting justice. The first man who entered, took me by the collar, and said, I was his prisoner. After this they all came in, and shutting the gate, went to seek after those who had made the riot. They left no place unsearched; chambers,

chambers, closets, garrets, and cellar were examined, but to no purpose; they then questioned me, and I related to them the whole affair, from beginning to end, not omitting one of their gambols. The officers were surpris'd, that out of such a number as I had mentioned, they could not find one. I was as much surpris'd as they, for I had counted eighteen, and said very simply, I supposed they were all spirits.

They laugh'd excessively at this idea, making great game of me and my spirits. The commissary then enquired, if those who went into the cellar had made a strict search, for he thought that the most likely place to find them in; they assured him they had; but this not satisfying him, he ordered them to light a flambeau, and

and attend him there. They obeyed ; and on entering the vaults, the first thing they saw was a barrel rolling towards them. The assistants all fell a trembling, and began to move off, saying, I was certainly in the right, the house was haunted.

The commissary, who was not so easily duped, stopped them, saying, he did not fear the devil himself ; and going to the cask, opened it, and discovered a man and woman, whom he handed out, and gave in charge to his people.

He then went to a barrel of oil, in which he found a man full dressed. When he perceived he was discovered, he attempted to jump out ; he performed this so awkwardly, that he threw down the vessel, the contents of

of which spirted up like a fountain, and anointed not only the beards, but the cloaths also of the commissary and his attendants.

The man of oil observing that every body made way for him, took advantage of it to escape; it was in vain that the commissary cried out, stop him! stop him! none would approach him; and he therefore got away through a private door, leaving, however, oil enough in his track, to have furnished the lamp of our lady for a twelvemonth. The great *peace officer* was so *enraged* at the condition he found himself in, that he began to swear most heartily at those who had occasioned this mishap; he called me a thousand names, assuring me, I might depend on it, that all who had been engaged in this business should
be

be hanged. We began to tremble at this menace.

They then proceeded to search the larder, and were approaching a large sack of flour, when a handful was thrown into their eyes; this was repeated to all that came near; they began stamping, swearing, and menacing those who dared to resist justice. Their opponents still directed handfuls of flour towards them, and aimed particularly at the commissary, who roared like a bull. Those who had the care of the prisoners quitted them to run to the assistance of their chief. These met the fate of their companions; as soon as they approached they were blinded by flour, so that each ran against the other, and gave such blows, that they almost broke each others head.

Seeing

Seeing our enemies in this disorder, we assembled all our forces, and charged them; they themselves assisting us so well, that we soon gained a complete victory. Not being able to see, they fell upon one another, and bestowed those blows on their friends, that were intended for their enemies: they fought till they were so exhausted, that they fell down; they were then assailed by such a shower of blows and kicks, that they remained like so many mummies.

When we found they were no longer in a situation to resist us, we tied them neck and heels, and conveyed them to the cellar, where they were thrown into the tub of oil, like so many fish when they are to be fried. The poor devils wallowed about, and resembled a litter of pigs in a sty; when

when they were thus secured, we took our leave, and each returned to his home. The owner of the house where these curious scenes had passed, was out of town ; he had left the care of it during his absence to a niece. The ill use she had made of her trust, and the consequence of her misconduct, rendered her so apprehensive of meeting her uncle at his return, that she quitted the house with the rest, and went to her father's. When her uncle came home, he was very much surprised to find himself shut out, and that he could gain no answer from within. He ordered the locks to be taken from the doors ; but what was his astonishment, to see his house strewed all over with flour and oil. From astonishment he passed to a rage, that made him vow severe vengeance on those who had occasioned this confusion.

fusion and loss. He directed his steps towards the cellar, where the tub of oil stood, in which he found the justice swimming, and his assistants on the ground, tied neck and heels. In a paroxysm of rage at the loss he had sustained he stopped not to attend to the suggestions of reason, or to listen to their defence; but with a stick which he brought in his hand, fell on the commissary and his people so unmercifully, that he left them half dead. Calling in his neighbours, the master of the house desired them to help him put those villains into the street. They complied, and the children gathering round the commissary and other officers, pelted them with all manner of dirt and filth. Thus befouled and bemired, it was impossible any body should recognize them. When they recovered their senses,

senses, and found the situation they were in; the first use they made of their liberty was to take to their heels. One might have cried out, stop justice! who is taking flight! They had left their cloaks, hats, and fwords at the house they quitted thus ignominiously; and never dared reclaim them, for fear of being subject to ridicule. The master kept these to indemnify himself for his losses.

When I took my departure from this house, I picked up a cloak, which being infinitely better than my own, I exchanged for it; and congratulated myself, that for once in my life I had made a good bargain, and passed a day with tolerable comfort, a circumstance that rarely happened to me. I went to the taylor's; there I found the house turned topsy turvey, and the

the husband beating his wife without mercy, because she came home without her cloak or veil, and a mob of children shouting after her.

I arrived, as usual, at a lucky minute; for the taylor no sooner spied me, than he quitted his wife to wreak his vengeance on me. He assailed me by a blow with his fist so plump in the mouth, that he knocked the few remaining teeth down my throat. After that, he kicked me in the stomach, till he made it render up an account of the few paltry goods I had been able to lodge there. "Are you not ashamed, said he, to shew your face in this house, you vile pimp? But you shall pay off, not only this score, but what you owe society for past times." So saying, he called to his men to bring a blanket, in which they
tossed

tossed me with a degree of satisfaction that could be only exceeded by my regret, nor left off till they left me for dead. My master then concluding, I suppose, I had paid off all scores. They left me in this condition on the great table. It was quite dark when I came to my senses; and not knowing where I was, in turning round, I fell off and broke my arm. At the approach of day, I took myself from this scene of my misery, and sheltered myself under the porch of a church, where I asked alms.

CHAPTER XVII.

Lazarillo turns Hermit.

AS I lay thus prostrate, I began to reflect on my past life. Every misfortune that had happened to me from the time of my entering the service of the blind man, to the present time, arose fresh in my mind, and proved to me, that he who works the hardest is not always the richest. No endeavours of mine had been wanting to gain a livelihood, but I had not succeeded; so that I was a testimony of the truth of the proverb, which says, "*He whom God assists, does better than he who rises betimes.*" The conviction I had of this made me recommend myself to the protection of Providence, hoping the remainder

mainder of my life would be more fortunate than the preceding part of it had been. It seemed as if my prayer was heard; for while I was offering up my petition, a venerable hermit was passing close to me; his beard was long, and white as snow; he supported himself on a stick, and held in the other hand a chaplet, at the end of which there hung a large skull. Seeing me in this miserable situation, he took pity on, and consoled me; he enquired whence I came, and what had reduced me to that deplorable condition. I gave him a full account of my dismal peregrinations and bitter sufferings in as few words as possible. He was astonished, and so much affected by the relation, that he offered me an asylum in his hermitage. I joyfully accepted his offer; and by the help of two or three good people

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I

who

who were at hand, got up, for my arm and bruises were by this time much worse.

I then accompanied my new patron to his hermitage, but with great pain and difficulty, for it was three quarters of a league from Valladolid. His retreat was in a cell that had been dug in a rock; it consisted of two apartments; one served to hold his bed, and all his necessaries; the other was his chapel. He had also a garden, rather curious than large, which provided him with fruit and vegetables, and served to amuse him. When we had reposed ourselves, the good old man said to me, I have lived twenty years in this retreat, removed from the bustle and vexations of the world; it is to me a terrestrial paradise. Here I contemplate things human
man

man and divine. I eat when I am hungry, and fast when I am satisfied. I watch and contemplate when I cannot sleep, and when I can sleep, here I rest. I am in solitude when I have no company, and when I have, am not alone. I laugh when I am merry, and cry when I am grieved. I work when I am not idle, and am idle when I do not work. Here I meditate on my past misfortunes, and contemplate my present happiness. In fine, it is here that I remain in ignorance of all things, and here where that I learn all things.

The hermit's discourse filled my mind with a satisfaction I had never tasted before. I begged of him to describe the hermit's life more particularly, because it seemed to me the happiest in the world. The happiest

indeed, replied he ; there is none that bears any comparifon to it. But I cannot now comply with your request, becaufe it is dinner time. I defired him then to try if he could fet my arm, which put me to great pain ; he did it, and with fo much eafe, I never felt more of it from that moment. We eat like kings and drank like templars. Our feaft ended, we went to pafs the afternoon according to the Spanifh cuftom, in taking a nap ; but I had not clofed my eyes long, before I heard the good hermit cry out, help ! help ! I am dying !

I arofe in great hafte, and going to him, found him indeed expiring. I afked him if he was going to die ? he faid, yes, yes ; and faid nothing but that word till he went off, which was in an hour from that time. I was very
much

much alarmed at this event, for I conceived, that if the poor man died without witnesses, I might be suspected of having murdered him, and so lose the life I had preserved with so much difficulty; nor would my appearance vouch much in my favour, since I certainly looked more like a thief than an honest man.

I went out of the hermitage immediately, to try if I could not find somebody to be a witness on this occasion. Looking round, I spied a flock of sheep. I ran directly, though in great pain. I found nine or ten shepherds and shepherdesses, who, to avoid the heat of the day, had retired under some willows that overshadowed a fountain of clear water; some were playing on their pipes, accompanied by their voices; some

13 dancing

dancing to the sound of the tabret, and others with castanets; and at a little distance were a lover and his mistress; he knelt at her feet, while she held his hand in hers, and seemed not inclined to drive him to despair. In short, it was altogether the most agreeable scene I ever beheld; but I could not contemplate it so long as I wished, my errand requiring dispatch. I joined this gay party, almost overpowered by fatigue and fright, and requesting them to go with me immediately to the hermit, who was dying.

Two or three of them agreed to return with me; when we arrived, they asked the hermit if he chose to die then? he replied, yes; but I believe he meant no; for it seemed to me that he would have chose to live
a little

a little longer, if it had been at his option. Perceiving that he was in such an affirmative mood, I resolved to make a few propositions to him; I therefore asked him, if he was willing that the shepherds should make his will, and witness it? he said, yes. If he left me sole heir? he said, yes. If he acknowledged that all he was worth was a tribute due to my service, and the pleasure he had received in my company? he said, yes. If, as he was incapable himself of signing this testament, he agreed that the shepherds should sign it for him? he said, yes, yes; and died in pronouncing yes. This will was registered by a coal upon the wall, as we had no pen or ink. We buried him that night; for I was so accustomed to bad fortune, that I feared my present good luck might fail by the resurrection of the

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the hermit to revoke his will. I invited the shepherds to sup with me, but they excused themselves on account of their being obliged to go and lead the flocks home. They took their leave, expressing very great concern to see me in such affliction.

As soon as they were gone, I went to examine the state of my property. In the inner apartment I found a closet, which served as cellar and larder, in which there was a large cask of excellent wine, and another of oil; two jars of honey, a great deal of salt meat, and some dried fruits. There were also two shelves of books, consisting chiefly of history and theology. To these I am indebted for amusement and instruction in my leisure hours; and to them my readers are indebted for forming the stile in which my memoirs are written.

All

All these acquisitions delighted me vastly; but there was one thing yet wanting; I could not conceive that a man who was so provident, should be without money. I renewed my search, therefore, and at length discovered a chest, but did not find even in that what I was in search of; it contained only clothes and linen. I had a great mind to go to the old man's tomb, and enquire where he kept his money, for I had heard that ghosts always discover those secrets; but I judged he would reproach me for my folly, in supposing so wise a man would keep his money in a chest, when his retreat was so favourable for a visit from thieves. I thought this idea was an inspiration from his spirit, and it led me to consider, if I had money to hide, where I should conceal it. It immediately struck me, that the
place

place I should chuse would be behind the altar. I therefore went there immediately, and taking down the front of it, which was composed of baked clay, perceived a hole about the size of a real; my heart began to palpitate, and my blood to boil at this sight.

I took a spade, and in less than two moments discovered the reliques which were buried in that consecrated ground. I found an earthen vessel quite full of money; I counted it; there was six hundred reals. I was so transported at the sight of this money, that I thought I should have died with joy on the spot. I took it from that place, and made a hole in the ground under a tree, at some distance from the hermitage, that in case some new misfortune should
draw

draw me from my retreat, I might have wherewithal to pass the remainder of my days in comfort.

When I had finished this business, I returned to the altar, which I replaced in its former situation. The next morning I put on the habit of the deceased, and went to the prior of the convent to inform him of what had happened. I found the whole community to which the hermitage belonged, in full convocation; they were called the brotherhood of St. Lazarus, which I conceived a good omen, from the relation of our names. This holy brotherhood perceiving me grey headed, of a venerable mien and palid aspect, which are great requisites for the profession, seemed inclined to accept me into the fraternity; but they objected to my
want

want of beard ; however, as I promised to let mine grow, and the shepherds vouched for the deceased having left me all his property, they agreed to give me the provision of the chapel.

This difficulty of the beard reminds me of a circumstance related to me once by a monk. He told me, that neither in his religion or that of others more reformed, did they ever elect a superior who had not a very fine beard ; so far did they carry this, that they often admitted men of inferior understanding, who purely possessed that advantage, and excluded those of the greatest abilities for want of it ; as if wisdom, and a capacity to regulate a community, depended on the texture of the skin. My new brethren then recommended to me to follow

follow the example of my predecessor, who had acquired such reputation for piety, that he was regarded as a saint. I promised to lead the life of a Hercules. They signified to me that I was to ask alms only on Tuesdays and Saturdays; for if I did on the other days, the mendicant brotherhood would punish me. I promised to observe all they said, particularly in what related to the community they mentioned, since I had once been in their hands, and knew therefore what they were capable of. I then took my leave, and proceeded immediately to ask alms (it being Saturday) at the neighbouring houses. I asked in a low, devout, and humble tone, as the blind man had taught me. It was not from necessity that I did this, but in compliance with custom. For according to the example of my brethren,

thren, the more I had, the more solicitous I should be to accumulate.

Those who heard me ask money for the illumination of St. Lazarus, came out of their houses, not knowing my voice; they were astonished to find a stranger, and enquired of me what was become of the good father Anselm (the name of the deceased.) I told them he was dead; one said, God rest his soul, he was very good; another, he is now in heaven; some said, blessed are those who lead such a life. A good woman assured the byestanders he had not tasted meat for six years; her neighbour went further, and said he never tasted any thing but bread and water. Ah, thought I, how little do people know of those they lavishly praise or virulently decry! One of those good people enquired what I had done with

thence

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of his

his habit ; I told her that was it I wore. She immediately took her scissars, and cut a piece from the part next her, saying, “ don’t be surpris’d my friend ; I am anxious to have a relique of that blessed faint, and will pay you for the damage done to your habit.” Doubtless, said some of the byestanders, he will be canonized soon, for he has already wrought some miracles. In short, I found the good hermit such a favorite, that I took the hint, and henceforth ask’d alms for the illumination of the blessed Anselm, instead of for St. Lazarus. I never could comprehend the meaning of this asking alms to pray for the enlightning of the saints, who are themselves lights ; but I must avoid touching on this string, lest it should jar. I went very regularly at first to ask alms on the days appointed, less

from the usual incentive with my brethren of accumulating riches, than from apprehension that refraining from it might lead people to suspect my treasure; however, time lessened this apprehension, and I have passed several years without any molestation, and in perfect ease and tranquillity. I follow the example of my predecessor in doing as my inclination prompts, and like him, am in a fair way of being canonized by those too who formerly would have given me bruises instead of blessings. I sometimes read, sometimes write, and sometimes reflect. The following observations have often occurred to me; that we often see men raised from the dirt, who acquire riches, honors, and estimation without our knowing how they attained, or are intitled to them. If we ask, is such a one wise or ingenious?

nious? has he genius or talents? the answer is no; but he is fortunate. We see others on the contrary, who are sensible, clever, industrious, and capable of governing a kingdom, who are poor, deserted, and despised; enquire the cause, and you are told they are unfortunate. It should seem therefore, that chance governs the world; but this mistake arises from our viewing only one point of a man's life, or judging his happiness from his situation. A man may be very happy at one period of life, and very miserable at another. Or he may be apparently happy or miserable, and be in reality the reverse; for a splendid appearance often conceals an aching heart, as a tattered cloak often covers a cheerful mind. I am myself an instance of the truth of what I advance. Once I was the outcast of fortune, a miracle of misery;

fery ; I am now in the enjoyment of all earthly felicity. I have also had an aching heart under a velvet cloak, and a chearful mind under a tattered one. Hence then let no man despair. In my long and various peregrinations, I have seen much of the world ; I have drawn this knowledge from it, that none are constantly happy or constantly miserable. Let those therefore who are happy, bear prosperity with moderation ; let those who are wretched, sustain their misfortunes with patience, and look forward to hope.

THE END.

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TO satisfy the curiosity of the readers (who are doubtless interested in the fate of Lazarillo) to the utmost of our power, we inform them, that he died in peace at his hermitage, some years after he had written his history, and was buried in the chapel of it, where his tomb is still to be seen, with the following inscription :

Here lies the Body of
BROTHER LAZARILLO GONZALES,
furnamed **DE TORMES ;**

who having played on the great Stage
of the World the following Characters,
Blind Man's Boy, Clerk of the Village,
Valet to all Sorts of Masters,
Water Merchant, Public Cryer, India Merchant,
Sea Monster,
and
Usher,
died a Hermit on the 12th of September,
in the Year 1570, aged 69 Years,
5 Months, and 11 Days.

R. I. P.

TO THE HONORABLE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

IN SENATE, FEBRUARY 2, 1870.
REPORT
OF THE
COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE
IN RESPONSE TO A RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE SENATE
JANUARY 27, 1869.

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1870.

1870.